

Exercising a man's prerogatives

SUIT, 1. a set of outer garments consisting of a coat and trouser that match in color or fabric.

A better definition might be a set of outer garments consisting of a coat styled with a narrow waist, round-of shoulders, two buttons, wide lapels and trousers that match, but don't have to.

Trousers this season are fitted through the waist and hip, flared slightly from the knee and are topped by a suitable vest.

You're really getting down to business when you're talking suits this season. Suits have once again become the uniform for these long, cold days at the office. But this doesn't mean they have to be dull and uninteresting. Some variety prevails this spring.

Start with color and work from there. White and shades of blue dominate, but red, green, yellow and orange enter the scene in small or solid.

Ralph Lauren for POLO has great things for spring with three-piece suits in white, beige and banana colors. Lauren also added vests to just about all of his suits.

The vest is to men's clothing what the blouse is to women's; it is a key to stretching and adding versatility to a man's wardrobe. Many vests come with an added plus of reversibility.

In addition to the standard suit, sports coats will probably make frequent trips to the office. The same style as the woman's suit, as well as the variety of colors prevail in sportcoats.

Probably one of the most important aspects of men's fashions is fabric. Light-weights are a must and seersucker, raw silks, crepes and linen/man-made blends fill the bill.

While polyesters don't breathe as well as natural fibers, blended fabrics are a combination of the best of both worlds, resulting in wrinkle-free, but cool fabrics.



Ralph Lauren suggests old fashioned, yet new looks